AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of operating an information handling system (IHS) comprising:

powering up a wireless section of the IHS to detect the presence of a wireless network while other sections of the IHS remain in a reduced power state; and

providing an indication to the user that a wireless network is present with which the IHS can communicate.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the reduced power state is an off state.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the reduced power state is a suspend state.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the wireless section is a wireless card that plugs into the IHS.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein powering up the wireless section is done prior to device enumeration by the IHS.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein powering up the wireless section is done prior to booting the IHS.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein powering up the wireless section is done prior to loading an operating system by the IHS.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 includes actuating a scan switch to commence powering up the wireless section.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 including powering up the wireless section in response to a wake command.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 including providing power to both the wireless section and at least one of the other sections of the IHS from a common power source.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the wireless section and the other sections of the IHS are situated in a common housing.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one light is used to provide the indication to the user.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the at least one light is an LED.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the indication is provided by an alphanumeric display.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 including storing profile information in a memory accessible to the wireless section.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 including locating the memory in the wireless section.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 including determining if a detected network matches a network included in a profile stored in the memory accessible to the wireless section.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein powering up the wireless section is performed with auxiliary power.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein powering up the wireless section is performed with main power.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the indication is variable.

21. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the powering up a wireless section step is performed at predetermined times.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the predetermined times include fixed time intervals.

23. (Original) An information handling system (IHS) comprising:

a processor;

a memory coupled to the processor;

a wireless section, coupled to the processor, which is powered up to detect the presence of a wireless network external to the IHS while other sections of the IHS remain in a reduced power state; and

an indicator, coupled to the wireless section, to provide an indication to the user that a wireless network is present with which the IHS can communicate.

24. (Original) The IHS of claim 23 wherein the reduced power state is an off state.

25. (Original) The IHS of claim 23 wherein the reduced power state is a suspend state.

26. (Original) The IHS of claim 23 wherein the wireless section is a wireless card that plugs into the IHS.

27. (Original) The IHS of claim 23 wherein the wireless section is powered up to detect the presence of a wireless network prior to device enumeration by the IHS.

28. (Original) The IHS of claim 23 wherein the wireless section is powered up to detect the presence of a wireless network prior to booting the IHS.

29. (Original) The IHS of claim 23 wherein the wireless section is powered up to detect the presence of a wireless network prior to loading an operating system by the IHS.

30. (Original) The IHS of claim 23 including a scan switch coupled to the wireless section to power up the wireless section when actuated by a user.

31. (Original) The IHS of claim 23 including a common power source to provide power to both the wireless section and at least one of the other sections of the IHS.

32. (Original) The IHS of claim 23 wherein the remaining section includes the processor.

33. (Original) The IHS of claim 23 including a common housing for both the wireless section and the remaining section.

34. (Original) The IHS of claim 23 wherein the indicator includes a light.

35. (Original) The IHS of claim 23 wherein the indicator includes an LED.

36. (Original) The IHS of claim 23 wherein the indicator includes an alphanumeric display.

37. (Original) The IHS of claim 23 wherein the wireless section includes a memory in which profile information is stored.

38. (Original) The IHS of claim 23 wherein the wireless section determines if a detected network matches a network included in the profile information.

39. (Original) The IHS of claim 23 wherein auxiliary power is provided to the wireless section.

40. (Original) The IHS of claim 23 wherein main power is provided to the wireless section.

41. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ IHS of claim 23 wherein the indication is variable.

42. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ IHS of claim 23 wherein the powering up a wireless section step is performed at predetermined times.

43. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ IHS of claim 42 wherein the predetermined times include fixed time intervals.